

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-10 ERDA-07 AF-08 ARA-10  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-09 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 IO-13  
L-03 NASA-02 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02  
PA-02 PRS-01 OES-06 SS-15 NRC-07 /138 W  
-----051355Z 067060 /40

R 051018Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2670

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL MUNICH

UNCLAS SOFIA 0698

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, OPN, SALT, UR, US, BU

SUBJECT: BULGARIAN EDIORIAL ON SECRETARY'S VISIT AND SALT  
PROPOSALS

REN: A. SOFIA 0684

B. MOSCOW 4467

C. WARSAW 2308

1. BULGARIAN PRESS HAS GIVEN SUBSTANTIAL COVERAGE TO  
SECRETARY'S VISIT (REF A), WITH EVERY MAJOR BULGARIAN NEWSPAPER  
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PROMINENTLY FEATURING EDITORIAL ANALYZING EQNGE AND ITS  
IMPLICATIONS.

2. ALL DREW CUE FROM GROMYKO INTERVIEW AND MADE POINTS THAT  
US WAS WELSHING ON VLADIVOSTOK AGREEMENT, SEEKING UNILATERAL  
ADVANTAGE, TRYING TO NEGOTIATE FROM NOW UNREALISTIC "POSITION  
OF STRENGTH," AND WAS DELIBERATELY DISTORTING SOVIET POSITIONS

FOR PROPAGANDA ADVANTAGE.

3. VARIOUS REASONS WERE SUGGESTED FOR US ACTIONS. MOST PAPERS SAW THEM AS NEW US ADMINISTRATION REACTING TO INTERESTS OF MONOPOLIES AND MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX, "CIRCLES IN US WHICH DO NOT LIKE THIS PROCESS OF DISARMAMENT" (TRU, APR 2). PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE PAPER RABOTNICHESKO DELO (APR 2) SAW "CONTRADICTIONS BETWEEN ORAL DECLARATIONS OF USG OF LOFTY ASPIRATIONS IN FIELD OF LIMITATION OF NUCLEAR ARMS AND CONCRETE INSTRUCTIONS OF NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL FOR POSITIONS OF SECRETARY OF STATE" TO WKE AT TALKS.

4. ONLY ONE PAPER (ZEMEDEL'SKO ZNAME -- NOMINALLY ORGAN OF BULGARIAN AGRARIAN UNION) SAW US HUMAN RIGHTS STATEMENTS AS A FACTOR IN BREAKDOWN, REFERRING TO IT AS A NEGATIVE INFLUENCE ON THE TALKS AND A STAND WHICH MAKES DETENTE AND DIALOGUE DIFFICULT.

5. MOSTLY THE BULGARIAN PRESS DISCUSSED US PROPOSAL IN ONLY THE MOST GENERAL OF TERMS CHARACTERIZING IT AS SPRINGING FROM INSINCERE MOTIVES, ATTEMPT TO GAIN UNILATERAL ADVANTAGE, OVERTHROWING OF PRINCIPLES ENSHRINED AT VLADIVOSTOK, ETC. MINISTRY OF DEFENSE NEWSPAPER NARODNA ARMIYA WAS ONLY QQR TO PROVIDE ANY DETAIL AT ALL OF US PROPOSAL. ACCORDING TO NARODNA ARMIYA, US SUGGESTED REDUCTION OF DELIVERY VEHICLES FROM THE VLADIVOSTOK TOTAL OF 2400 TO 1800-2000, AND THE NUMBER OF MISSILES WITH MIRV-ED WARHEADS TO BE REDUCED TO 1200-1100. THIS WAS NOTED ONLY IN PASSING AND NOT ADVERSELY COMMENTED UPON. NEXT SENTENCE, HOWEVER, WAS STRONG ATTACK ON US UNCLASSIFIED

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PROPOSAL "THAT HALF OF SOVIET MISSILES BE DESTROYED." NO FURTHER EXPLANATION WAS PROVIDED AND NARODNA ARMIYA DID NOT COMMENT ON ANY LINKAGE BETWEEN REDUCTIONS AND MISSILE DESTRUCTION NOR DID IHCOMMENT ON LAUNCH VEHICLES VS. WARHEAD QUESTION. RE "BACKFIRE" - CRUISE MISSILE QUESTION, NARODNA ARMIYA CALLED CHARACTERIZATION OF BACKFIRE AS STRATEGIC WEAPON "CONTRARY TO REALITY" AND CLAIMED US WISHED TO ELIMINATE CONSIDERATION OF CRUISE MISSILE ON GROUNDS IT HAD WINGS. IT MADE NO MENTION OF US PROPOSAL FOR LIMITING STRATEGIC CRUISE MISSILE.

6. WE HAVE SEEN NO EDITORIAL COMMENT WHICH PICKS UP GROMYKO THEME ON QUESTION OF US BASES IN EUROPE OR ELSEWHERE.

7. ALL EIGHT EDITORIALS CONTAINED SOME BASICALLY OPTIMISTIC MATERIAL ON FUTURE OF NEGOTIATIONS, PROVIDED US SHOWS GOOD FAITH, AND ALL TOOK THE VIEW BALL WAS NOW IN US COURT. DESPITE UNACCEPTABILITY OF US PROPOSALS, SAID NARODNA ARMIYA, USSR HAD NOT ALARMED THE DOOR. POGLED SAW GROUNDS FOR HOPE IN "BASIC AND INVARIABLE PRINCIPLES OF SOVIET POLICY" AND FACT TALKS WRE TO

CONTINUE IN MAY. TRUD STATED FLATLY "USSR IS READY FOR  
CONSIDERABLE LIMITATION OF ARMS, BOTH STRATEGIC AND CONVENTIONAL."  
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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, SALT (ARMS CONTROL), MINISTERIAL VISITS, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS  
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**Subject:** BULGARIAN EDIORIAL ON SECRETARY'S VISIT AND SALT PROPOSALS REN: A. SOFIA 0684  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SOPN, UR, US, BU, (VANCE, CYRUS R)  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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